

★ THE SOUTHERN CROSS ★

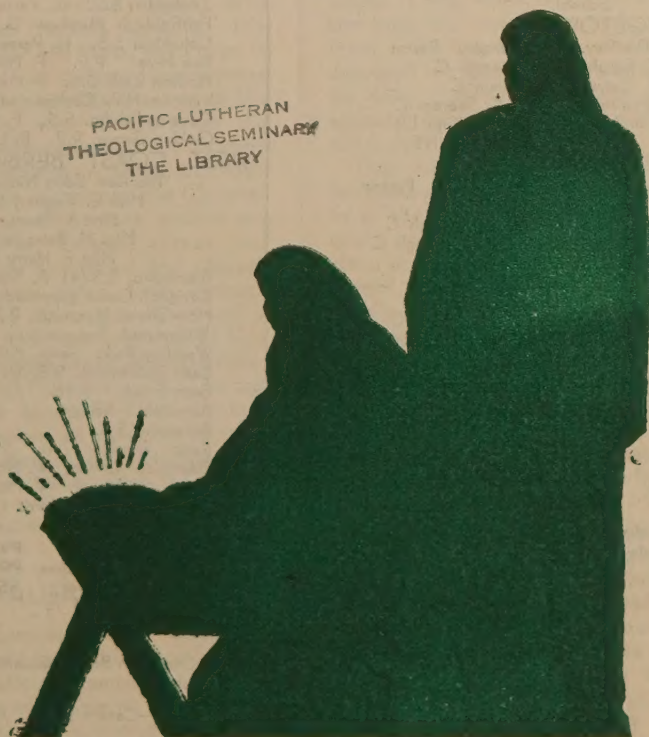
Vol. XII, No. 6

Nov.-Dec. 1953



There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer, and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

PACIFIC LUTHERAN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
THE LIBRARY



The Rev. E. G. Vosseler, Pastor
 Le Ressouv. St. Andrew. J. Persaud C
 Bel Air. St. Mary. J. Persaud C
 School. L. Bone HT
 Campbellville. Redeemer. J. Persaud C

BUXTON

The Rev. A. R. Bowen, Pastor
 Miss M. Butisingh PW
 Miss R. Yisu Das PW
 Enmore. S. S. R. L. Singh C
 B. Adventure. Salem. R. L. Singh C
 Non Pareil. Messiah. D. Ramdeholl C
 Strathesby. S. S. J. R. Singh C
 Vigilance. S. S. J. R. Singh C
 Buxton. Holy Trinity. J. R. Singh C
 Marcia. S. S. J. R. Singh C
 Lusignan. Swargia Vani. R. D. K. Singh C
 Mon Repose. S. S. A. Kowlessar C
 Tri. Sadhu Sundar Singh. A. Kowlessar C
 Chateau Margot. S. S. A. Kowlessar C

CANJE AND LOWER BERBICE

The Rev. W. J. Scott, Pastor
 Betsy Ground. Transfiguration
 School. J. Sukhu HT

Sheet Anchor S. S.
 Lochaber. St. Thomas. P. Jagdhar C
 School. P. Jagdhar HT
 Vryheid S. S. P. Jagdhar C
 Germania. St. Clement
 Ma Retraite. St. Mark.
 Fearn. St. Catherine. J. Kesney LR
 School.

GEORGETOWN

The Rev. P. G. Hansen, Pastor
 G. T. Epiphany. S. Seeram C
 G. T. Calvary. S. Seeram C
 La Penitence. S. S. S. Seeram C
 Sandhills. Mt. Zion. R. King LR
 School. R. King HT

LOWER CORENTYNE

The Rev. P. A. Magalee, Pastor
 Mrs. S. Morrison PW
 Cromarty. St. Luke. R. J. Singh C
 Bush Lot. St. Stephen. R. J. Singh C
 Alness. St. Michael. T. Menzies C
 Whim. St. James. D. Lal Singh C
 Tain. S. S. M. Jahoor C
 Port Mourant. S. S. M. Jahoor C
 Williamsburg. St. John. M. Jahoor C
 Nigg. S. S. M. Jahoor C
 Fyrish. St. Peter's. S. Pillay C
 Fyrish Road. S. S. S. Pillay C
 Kildonen. P. P. A. T. Williams C

NEW AMSTERDAM

The Rev. W. J. Wolff, Pastor
 Miss O. Steaman, PW
 N. A. Ebenezer Church.
 Hindi Services.
 Tabitha Chapel
 Stanleytown. St. Timothy. A. Persaud C

ORLEANS

The Rev. P. A. Magalee, Pastor
 Crabwood. Cr. Nativity. J. Ramlochan C
 Skeldon. Emmanuel. J. Dookram C
 Skeldon High School. R. Beharry Prin.
 Springlands. St. Phillip. J. Dookram C
 Kingston. S. S. J. Dookram C
 No. 68 Village. E. Muckunlall C

UPPER BERBICE

The Rev. H. C. Magalee, Pastor
 Kwakwani. Mt. Olivet. N. Roup LR
 School. H. Bowen HT
 Ituni. Mt. Carmel. W. Blair C
 School. W. Blair HT
 Maria Henrietta. St. Paul. C. Duggin C
 School. C. Duggin HT
 St. Lust. Mt. Hermon. C. Fredericks C
 School. C. Fredericks HT
 Ebeni. Atonement. O. Lalljie LR
 School. O. Lalljie LR
 Kimbia. Reformation. G. Clark LR
 School. G. Clark LR
 De Velde. Grace. J. Muñro C
 School. J. Muñro HT

UPPER EAST COAST, DEMERARA

The Rev. Eden Nicholas, Pastor
 Mrs. A. Skeete PW
 Augsburg. P. P. B. Budhu
 School. B. Budhu HT
 Catherine. Bethlehem. P. P.
 Huntley. Bathany.

The Rev. A. R. Bowen, Pastor
 Zeeland. S. S. G. Persaud C
 Fairfield. St. Matthew. G. Persaud C
 Columbia. S. S. G. Persaud C
 Bee Hive. P. P. F. Miller C
 Nooton Zeil. S. S. F. Miller C
 Victoria. Holy Communion. F. Miller C
 Cove and John. S. S. F. Miller C
 Golden Grove. P. P. R. L. Singh C

WEST COAST BERBICE

The Rev. Eden Nicholas, Pastor
 Miss E. Wagner, Missionary
 Mrs. A. Skeete PW
 Miss M. Baboolall PW
 Miss F. Harry PW
 Blairmont. S. S. (4) A. Yisu Das C
 Rosinol. Good Shepherd. A. Yisu Das C
 Mon Choisi. Nazareth. P. P. A. Yisu Das C
 Willemstad. Resurrection. H. Singh C
 Woodley Park. Faith. P. P. H. Singh C
 Bath Settlement. S. S. H. Singh C
 Bath Estate. S. S.
 Armadale. Advent.
 Britania. S. S.
 Ross. Hope.
 Seafield. Christ. W. Morris LR
 School. W. Morris HT
 Profit. S. S. W. Morris LR

Key:

C	Catechist	PW	Parish Worker
HT	Head-Teacher	PP	Preaching Point
LR	Lay Reader	SS	Sunday School

THE SOUTHERN CROSS

Published bi-monthly by the Ev. Lutheran Church in British Guiana.
 New Amsterdam, British Guiana.

Editor—Mrs. W. J. Scott

Asst. Editor—Catechist P. T. Jagdhar

Subscription Price: 50 cents a Year.

CHRISTIANITY

It is sufficiently known from experience that transitory pleasure, ambition, and self-interest are to the political machine of the world what the weight is to a clock. Since those who pretend to be authorities are pushed, pulled, and turned by such weights, they act contrary even to the world's wisdom and their own welfare when they attack the Christian religion, for, granted that they are unable to believe that the Christian religion brings with it a temporal and eternal, pure and full enjoyment, an enduring honor, and an imperishable benefit, they ought to know at least this much from history, that the greatest temporal honor and available pleasure and benefit are supplementary accompaniments of the Christian religion. Just as the Promised Land's numerous material privileges, liberties, and riches, were accessory to the Messianic religion, so are all the material riches, liberties and privileges of our day products of the Christian religion. Why did the Christian nations vanquish the heathen in the East and West, the Moors in Africa, and the Jews scattered everywhere if it was not to establish the rule of the Christian religion, even if Christians did misuse it? We would not keep one thousandth of the material possessions, rights, and liberties we have if we repudiated the Christian religion. It is true that at one time or another the Assyrian, Persian, Greek, and Roman monarchies dominated and plagued the people of God, but in every instance this happened by divine permission and in accordance with the just judgment of God because God's people broke faith, rejected God, and repudiated His covenant. Accordingly we may be sure that if we repudiate the Christian religion, we shall most certainly lose the riches, liberties, and privileges connected with it and shall become the poorest slaves.

from the 1752 Journal of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg

EVALUATION

Born in a borrowed cattle shed,
And buried in another's tomb;
Small wonder our complacency
Leaves such a One no room!
But castles were as poor as sheds
Until that Prince was born on earth,
And tombs were mockeries of hope
Before He changed death into birth!

Elinor Lennen

THERE WAS BUT ONE WAY

There is a story of a great and wise philosopher who was also very kind and beloved by all who knew him. But, although he lived in most ways in the spirit of Christ, he had never been able to believe the story of Christmas. He could not find in his heart and mind to believe that God had come into the world as a babe in a manger at Bethlehem.

One Christmas Eve as he sat before the warm fire in his little house among his treasured books he was disturbed by the flapping of birds' wings against the pane of his window where the light from his lamp shone. He put on his great fur coat and went outside, where he discovered that the birds had been caught in the blizzard and had not strength to continue their journey to the south where they could be safe from the bitter cold.

He tried to coax the birds into his house where it was warm and comfortable. But the birds did not understand. So he fed them with bread crumbs, and though they devoured the food hungrily it did not strengthen them sufficiently to win their battle against cold and the storm; and they returned to his door again.

Then he tried to coax the birds into his barn where there was food to eat and shelter from the elements. But again the birds could not seem to understand that there, close at hand, was safety, and they did not enter. The wise philosopher failed and the birds perished in the snow.

As the philosopher returned to his house, he was greatly disappointed, when suddenly a new thought occurred to him. "There is but one way I could have saved them. If I could have become a bird, they would have understood. That is the only way I could have saved the birds—by becoming one of them."

And then a great light flooded the mind of this great and wise philosopher, and suddenly he understood about Christmas. He lifted his head and cried, "God, there was no other way that even you could make men understand; no other way save by becoming one of them. There is no other way." Then he fell on his knees and from the depths of his great soul cried, "I believe, I believe."

Adapted by Jack Merner in "The Church Tower" from Mabel Lee Cooper's *The Philosopher's Awakening*.

CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

On Christmas Day God gave His Gift to mankind, the most beautiful and loving gift which can never be equalled. Men learn by example; so today Christmas is not only a time for worshipping a Saviour, but a day for giving the most precious and wonderful gifts to those we love, and to others who may be poor in wordly goods, affection, or spirit.

Because this most loved of holidays is a gladsome mixture of divine and human, many of the customs which have grown about this day observe both religious and secular joys.

In England the tree is decorated on Christmas Eve. Stockings are hung in anticipation of a visit from Santa Claus or Father Christmas. Groups of singers stroll about the countryside, stopping at homes along the way to sing their carols, both ancient and new. On Christmas Day there will be gifts and church and a special dinner with roast beef or perhaps goose, and plum pudding. Possibly the most outstanding observation of Christmas Day that seems typically English is the Yule log. This log is always the best and biggest that can be found. If it is of a size to fill the entire fireplace, so much the better. It is dragged or carried into the house with much celebration. The custom is to light the log with a piece of the one left over from the year before.

In Sweden, children have their gifts and tree on Christmas Eve, and also the big Christmas dinner. Mysterious donors toss exciting gifts through the front doors, and then run away before anyone can see who they are. On Christmas Day the whole family rises extremely early and goes to church.

In Norway there is the traditional Christmas tree and feast. Gifts are often hidden in different parts of the house so that the children must search for them. Here, as in Sweden, sheaves of grain are put on top of the houses or barns or are hung on poles in the yards so that the birds, too, may enjoy a Christmas dinner.

Germany's great gift to the customs of Christmas is the decorated tree. Many people believe that it was Martin Luther who first thought of decorating a fir tree for Christmas. It is said that he received this wonderful inspiration as he watched the

beauty of brilliant stars against a dark sky one Christmas Eve.

In Holland and Belgium, Christmas is celebrated mostly by church services. This is also true in France, except that on Christmas Eve the children leave their wooden shoes by the chimney. In the morning they find them full of presents, supposedly left for them by the Christ Child. At the end of the Christmas season, Twelfth Night is celebrated. At this time a special cake is baked, within which is a little token or prize. Whoever finds the token in his piece of cake becomes "king" or "queen" for the rest of the party.

In Italy, Christmas is mostly a religious occasion. Two days before Christmas a strict fast is kept. A splendid banquet is served on Christmas Eve, after which comes the excitement of drawing presents from the "Urn of Fate." This is a big crock, filled with gifts. To increase the excitement some packages are empty, but there are so many gifts that nobody leaves without one. On Christmas Eve, as families go to church, the crowded streets are very gay with bonfires, fireworks, and people carrying torches.

In Mexico the children celebrate in a way similar to that in Italy. A bowl, called a "pinata," is gaily decorated. Filled with little toys and candies, it is hung above the heads of the children. They are blindfolded in turn, given a stick, and told to break the pinata—if they can. When someone finally succeeds in knocking it down there is a cascade of toys and sweets, which the children scramble to gather.

A Christian should always be known by his cheerful countenance, and never more so than at Christmas time—the birthday celebration of his Saviour. Let "Deck the hall with boughs of holly" mingle its gay melody with the beautiful strains of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and "Silent Night." Make Christmas a very special celebration in which you combine the dignity and beauty of your Christian faith with the simple, innocent pleasures of the world.

The gift of God is eternal
life through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Romans 6:23

UPPER BERBICE

The slump in the timber market has caused grievous economic hardship all along the river. It all started when Messrs. Davson and Co., Ltd. found that their flat was overcrowded with logs, and that it was unsafe to add to that stock. As soon as this firm stopped buying, the other mills immediately dropped their prices to such a degree that it amounted to a severe loss to anyone who had to sell. Many who were caught in this situation in New Amsterdam suffered a great deal, and the end is not yet in sight.

Coupled with this severe hardship, the rice crop in most areas has not turned out well and ground-provision farming is still handicapped by cockles, and acousi ants.

In the face of all this, it seems the wise thing to do is to concentrate on kitchen gardens. These can be constructed near to homes so that they could be readily tended. The planting of greens and vegetables will certainly help the family table in the present timber crisis. We commend all our people to the merciful care of our Loving Father.

DE VELDE. A big day was celebrated on September 1, when the new school building was opened. Substantial contributions were received from parents to the fund for this new building. The new school is 40 by 20 feet, with a suitable platform for formal functions.

The opening was attended by an overflowing crowd. The Rev. W. J. Wolff substituted for the president of the church in the opening service, and Mr. Cecil Barker, B. Sc., of Queen's College presided at the public meeting and concert. Mr. D. L. Boodhoo, Education Officer of Berbice, who represented the Director of Education, gave a very fine address, and greetings were received from Pastor E. G. Vosseler (who also sang a Bible Camp Solo), from Mrs. V. Barker of Bishop's High School, and Mr. F. Jason, Superintendent of the Torani Scheme. The head teacher, Mr. J. Munro, read an interesting history of the school.

Mr. Munro presented a very fine concert by the parents and pupils, after which the good ladies of the community served refreshments. We are grateful to God for this new building, and hope that it will serve its purpose well.

ST. LUST. Under the direction of Councilman Reece, a resthouse is being erected on the compound. All the members are asked to rally around for the completion of this project. It will be sorely needed for Conference in January next year.

We are exceedingly happy to again welcome in our midst the wife of our Catechist. During her absence she was almost a constant sufferer, and for several weeks was a patient in the hospital. We hope that from now on she will enjoy perfect health and strength.

MARIA HENRIETTA. At the Annual Parish Conference the guests of honor were Pastor and Mrs. E. G. Vosseler. The re-elected officers are Catechist Duggin, vice president, and Mr. N. Roup, secretary.

The new church council for St. Paul's consists of Messrs. P. Sauers, J. Reece, C. Hartmann, J. Duncan, J. Burgh, W. Hartmann, and J. Nielville. Mr. John Reece is the new superintendent of the Sunday School.

KWAKWANI. After a recent Sunday service, church members and friends went to the school hall for games and refreshments. A very fine evening was spent, and many have asked that this social period be repeated.

Mt. Olivet's new church council consists of Messrs. Bowen, Abrahams, Sarmento, Jerrel, Williams, and Phillips, and Catechist Roup.

Recent deaths in the parish are Mr. Jeremiah Thomas, a faithful councilman of Mt. Carmel Church; Mrs. Jean DaSilva, a member of Reformation Church and a former assistant teacher; Edward Boyle, a pupil of Reformation School. We extend our sympathies to their bereaved families.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace, goodwill toward men. Luke 2:14.

CHRISTMAS EVE

The door is on the latch tonight,
The hearth-fire is aglow,
I seem to hear soft passing feet—
The Christ child in the snow.
My heart is open wide tonight
For stranger, kith or kin;
I would not bar a single door
Where love might enter in.
Author Unknown

UPPER BERBICE

KIMBIA. Reformation is looking forward to the erection of their church building. It is hoped that the cornerstone may be laid on Reformation Day, October 31.

We welcome the return of several of our men from the balata fields.

EBINI. This is the newest baby in the Parish and one that has started out with much promise. Within less than a year of the commencement of weekly services, a congregation was established. Within less than three months of the commencement of building activities, the jungle was cleared and a building erected. A school, too, has been started, with an enrollment of 26.

This is the story of a people working together with a purpose and with God.

Weekly services were begun by Catechist C. C. Fredericks. Many were the difficulties of transportation and of serving two places on the same day. Services were held in the homes of members, the buildings often being too small for the purpose. On many occasions services could not be held. Yet the people had a purpose — they wanted a church, and a school. The Church granted the sum of \$1,000, and the people contributed the entire finance of building, brick, sand, and lots of labor.

The new building, which is to serve both as church and school, was dedicated on Sunday, August 30. In the absence of the president of the church, Pastor W. J. Wolff performed the act of dedication. Pastor E. G. Vosseler preached an inspiring sermon for the occasion, and assisted in the Service of Holy Communion. Three infants were baptized, four candidates confirmed, and twenty-five received into full membership.

At the conclusion of this wonderful service, the members of Atonement Church were hosts at a lunch of peppercorn pork and rice. During the meal, the great hymns of the church were enjoyed through the playing of records. In the evening there was another large attendance for Vespers during which Pastor Vosseler served as liturgist, and Pastor Wolff delivered the message. Following the service, a sacred concert was presided over by Mrs. Barker of Bishop's High School, and featured the choirs of Mt. Hermon and Reformation churches, and members of the new congregation. Addresses

were also given by Mr. D. L. Boodhoo, Education Officer, and Mr. C. Barker of Queen's College. The special guests were presented with handcraft articles by various members of the congregation.

SKELDON

CRABWOOD CREEK. The Sunday school is making rapid progress, with an enrollment of 75. A Confirmation Class with 14 members has been started.

A new Sunday school has been started at Baba Grant at the extreme end of Crabwood Creek. Mr. Kawal Persand is permitting the school to meet under his house. Attendance indicates a promising future for this new venture.

SKELDON. Luther Leaguers have started a garden in the Skeldon Compound. The garden Committee consists of Messrs. Sewdat [chairman], Jaglall, Deonarine, and Gurdatt. Mrs. P. A. Magalee, who is often seen working in the garden, is a member of the committee also, and has been appointed "watchman" of the garden. Pastor Magalee has arranged for a series of films to be shown. Arrangements are also being made to organize a radio class in which every Leaguer will have an opportunity to build his own receiving set.

NUMBER 68 VILLAGE. Work continues to progress at this point, and a new Sunday school has begun at Number 65 Village. The new school, which meets under the house of an interested friend, has an enrollment of 52.

CHRISTMAS TODAY

How can they honor Him — the humble lad
Whose feet struck paths of beauty through the earth —
With all the drunken revelry, the mad
Barter of goods that marks His day of birth?
How can they honor Him with flame and din,
Whose soul was peaceful as a moon-swept sea,
Whose thoughts were somber with the world's great sin
Even while He trod the hill to Calvary?
I think if Jesus should return and see
This hollow blasphemy, this day of horror,
The heart that languished in Gethsemane
Would know again as great and deep a sorrow,
And He who charmed the troubled waves to sleep
With deathless words — would kneel again and weep.

Anderson M. Scruggs.

SKELDON HIGH SCHOOL

More than 600 persons were present this year to witness Speech Night Exercises. In addition to the play "Papa Pepper's Bombshell" and scenes from "As You Like It," there were choral numbers. Special guests of honor were Dr. and Mrs. Paul White who were visiting the Colony at the time. Certificates and prizes were awarded to 28 students.

Eighteen new students have joined the school this term. A new Form I will cater to students who wish to begin high school early.

Mr. Edger Menzies, former vice principal, has sent a box of very useful books for the library.

Lord, reform thy world, beginning with me.

CORENTYNE

FYRISH VILLAGE. "Christmas in the year of Our Lord" will be presented on Christmas Eve in the Fyrish Road building, and on Christmas night at St. Peter's in Fyrish Village. Both performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

WHIM. A baptismal font has been given to St. James Church in memory of Miss Avril Mitchell, and a lectern in memory of William Charles Mitchell who was a councilman of Ebenezer congregation for many years. Both gifts were made by nurse Stella Mitchell and other relatives.

Fear not that thy life shall come to an end,
but rather fear that it shall never have a
beginning.

WEST COAST BERBICE

SEAFIELD. Church membership has increased to 97, with 6 catechumens being prepared for membership.

Luther League is meeting six times a week—five sessions being devoted to Volley Ball, and the sixth to the regular meeting.

The **Sunday School** recently enjoyed a treat, sponsored by the Sunday School Cabinet.

A Sunday school has been commenced at No. 41 Village. Membership started with 12 members, and has now increased to 41. Our thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. "Mam Jake" who have opened their doors to this new group.

LUTHERAN BOOK STORE

During the past year, the Lutheran Book Store has greatly expanded its facilities. It is located in the church office at New Amsterdam. You are invited to visit it at any time.

Books, maps, and tracts are available, and the Lutheran Book Store is also the official depository for the British and Foreign Bible Society in Berbice. Always available is one of the best stocks of Bibles in the colony, including New Testaments. Gospel portions sell at two to four cents each.

Bibles may be ordered by mail from the book store. They range in price from 96c. to \$10.00. The manager of the book store recommends the \$1.80 edition as an excellent value. A four-volume set of the Bible, priced at \$6.00, is printed in unusually large type which can be read easily by people with poor sight. Its convenient size also makes it ideal for invalids who cannot hold the larger, heavier volumes.

Other books regularly in stock are hymn books, and catechisms. A subsidy from the church permits the book store to sell both a word edition and a music edition at a special, low price. A locally printed edition of the catechism can be purchased for only eight cents.

Other books carried in stock in limited quantities are religious novels, books for children, books for Sunday school teachers and church workers, devotional and prayer booklets. Many of the children's books have colored pictures, and are inexpensive. Flannelgraph supplies are also in stock. Of special interest to church members will be the several different editions by celebrated authors about the life of Luther, also Bible Encyclopedias, Concordances, Bible histories, Atlases, Commentaries, school

(Continued on page 8)

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

We open here our treasures and our gifts;

And some of it is gold,

And some is frankincense,

And some is myrrh;

For some has come from plenty,

Some from joy,

And some from deepest sorrow of the soul.

But Thou, O God, dost know the gift is love,

Our pledge of peace, our promise of good will

Accept the gift and all the life we bring.

Herbert H. Hines

LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION NEWS RELEASES

COPENHAGEN. Dr. Alfred Th. Jorgensen died on September 14, at the age of 79, after a prolonged illness. He was at one time Executive Secretary of the Lutheran World Convention, and one of the pioneers of the movement for world Lutheran unity.

RIO DE JANEIRO. A conference of representatives from all Lutheran churches and congregations in Latin America will be held here in July 1954.

COLOMBIA. The LWF Committee on Latin America is looking for a pastor to work in Bogota so that Pastor Ake Kastlund of Sweden can be released in order to begin new work among Lutheran residents from Scandinavian countries who have settled in the northern part of South America, and in Central America.

SOUTH AMERICA. Through the efforts of LWF, 15,000 Lutherans have been resettled in South America the past few years. At present, good opportunities for resettling refugees exists in Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

BUDGET. The present budget of LWF World Service amounts to about a million dollars. To this sum will be added over \$9,000 which represents a part of the Michelfeder Memorial Fund raised by the German National Committee and earmarked for refugee service.

(Continued from page 7)

plays, and Hindi scriptures.

New supplies are expected in time for Christmas, and you may find it worth your while to visit the book store when you are searching for gift items. Religious books are sold at cost wherever possible. Orders for particular books desired can be placed through the Lutheran Book Store, and are available from both English and United States publishers.

Pastors and catechists receive lists of new and available books from time to time. If you are interested in seeing what is in stock at the book store, ask to see the list.

The Lutheran Book Store will be glad to answer any questions about books you are interested in, and will be glad to place all of their facilities at your disposal.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father. James 1:17

STAR OF BETHLEHEM

O Star that led the Wise Men from the East,
Shine on our revels — sanctify our feast!

They sought the Prince of Peace:

We seek Him, too:

But not with myrrh and frankincense — with rue,
The Flower of Repentance, meet for those
Who saw the Light and yet the Darkness chose.

Though sometimes it may wax and sometimes

wane,

Yet beams that Star — yet beckons us again;

Eternal challenge to the mystic Quest

For Peace, which, till he find, man may not rest.

And it shall shine until its task be done,

With all men Brothers, and all nations One.

Shine on our revels — sanctify our feast,

O Star that led the Wise Men from the East!

Florence Van Cleave

Thanks be unto God for his
unspeakable gift. 2 Cor. 9:15

STAR OF MY HEART

Star of my heart, I follow from afar.

Sweet Love on high, lead on where shepherds are,

Where Time is not, and only dreamers are.

Star from of old, the Magi-Kings are dead

And a foolish Saxon seeks the manger-bed.

O lead me to Jehovah's child

Across this dreamland lone and wild,

Then I will speak this prayer unsaid,

And kiss his little haloed head—

"My star and I, we love thee, little child."

Except the Christ be born again tonight

In dreams of all men, saints and sons of shame,

The world will never see his kingdom bright.

Stars of all hearts, lead onward through the night

Past death-black deserts, doubts without a name,

Past hills of pain and mountains of new sin

To that far sky where mystic births begin,

Where dreaming ears the angel-song shall win.

Our Christmas shall be rare at dawning there,

And each shall find his brother fair,

Like a little child within:

All hearts of the earth shall find new birth

And wake, no more to sin.

Yachel Lindsay

